

In the specification:

Please add the following paragraph at the beginning of the specification.

--           This patent application claims priority to US Serial No. 09/839,165 filed April 20, 2001 in the names of Randy Stephens, et al. --

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 12 as follows:

--       Still in Figures 3 and 4, cutter gear 98 is driven by elongated drive gear 104 having a plurality of drive gear teeth 106 designed to mesh with cutter gear teeth 99. The function of elongated drive gear 104 is to rotate cutter gear 98 and cutter 96 as they translate in both longitudinal directions. Elongated drive gear 104 is preferably made of a thermoplastic material, such as liquid crystal polymer. Distal drive axle 108 projects from the distal end of elongated drive gear 104 and mounts rotatably into an axle support rib (not visible) molded on the inside of top shell 17 and held in place by first gear support rib 136 located on bottom shell 19. Gear shaft 110 projects from the proximal end of drive gear 104 and is rotatably supported by a gear shaft slot 69 located in the proximal end of top shell 17 and by second gear support rib 137 located on bottom shell 19. Drive gear slot 101 is located on the most proximal end of gear shaft 110 as a means for rotationally engaging drive gear 104. --

Please insert the following paragraph after the second full paragraph of page 32.

-- Still referring to Figure 23, cutter 596 has a lumen 595 extending through the entire length of cutter 596. The distal end of cutter 596 is sharpened to form a cutter blade 597 for cutting tissue. --

Please add the following sentence to the end of the first paragraph on page 34.

-- Box 7 in Figure 27 references the step of moving the cutter back into position B. --